



## Pacific Region Fruit & Nut Review

*The Pacific Region Includes the States of CA, HI, and NV*

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### FEBRUARY CROP COMMENTS – CALIFORNIA

Pruning of various fruit trees continued, where soil conditions allowed. Fair weather allowed for winter weed spraying to continue. A few varieties of stone fruit began to bloom early in the central portion of the State. Manual weed control was performed on berms along with pre-emergent herbicides. Kiwifruit were harvested and packed for shipment. In Sutter County, pitted and natural condition prunes were packed and shipped for domestic and foreign consumption. Pruning, tying of trellises, and application of herbicide in vineyards continued in many counties throughout the month. In Tulare County, numerous early varieties of stone fruit were in full bloom. Pomegranate orchards continued to be pruned. In Stanislaus County, herbicides were applied to the floors of cherry orchards. In San Joaquin County, pruning in

cherry orchards and vineyards continued. In Madera County, plums were blooming and the pruning of grapevines continued. Beehives continued to arrive to be placed in almond orchards in several counties. In Madera County, bud swell in almonds were reported early in the month. In San Joaquin County, reports were received of almonds still pushing buds with some beginning to bloom. In Sutter County, almond began to bloom at mid-month. In Fresno, Madera, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Tulare Counties, early varieties of almonds orchards were reported to be in full bloom, while some late variety almond orchards were beginning to bloom. Throughout the month, nut packing houses continued to pack shelled and in-shell walnuts, shelled pecans, and pistachios for domestic and foreign markets.

### CALIFORNIA CITRUS

Early rains in February slowed the harvesting of citrus. Citrus packing houses continued to pack Navel, Cara Cara and Blood oranges, lemons, Mandarins, and Minneola tangelos. Melo Gold and Oro Blanco hybrid grapefruit were packed for shipment to domestic and foreign markets. Citrus groves continued to be pruned

and skirted, with pruned brush being shredded. In Ventura County, high winds and low humidity caused Valencia orange trees to lose excessive amounts of oranges. New citrus trees continued to be planted to replace old groves. Seedless tangerines were netted to prevent cross pollination during the upcoming citrus bloom season.

### FLORIDA CITRUS

In the citrus growing region, reported daily high temperatures were cooler than average for this time of the year. Although a couple days early in the month reached 80 degrees or higher, most highs were in the mid to lower 70s, with a few days never getting above the mid-60s. Rainfall, for the first time in several months, was below historical averages. About half the monitored weather stations recorded less than two inches of rainfall for the month. In Desoto County both Arcadia and Joshua recorded above three inches of rainfall for the month. Canals and ditches remained full in all areas due to the excessive rainfall earlier in the season. According to the March 1, 2016 U.S. Drought Monitor, the entire citrus region was drought free.

Trees in well cared for groves looked healthy. Growers were removing dead or dying trees in most areas. Bloom was in various stages across the citrus region. Some

trees bloomed early and already had small fruit forming on the trees, while other groves showed only a few white pedals on healthy trees.

All processing plants transitioned from early-midseason oranges to the later variety Valencia oranges. Only a few plants processed grapefruit, mostly eliminations from groves spot picked for fresh fruit. At the beginning of the month, packinghouses were accepting early and midseason oranges, Honey tangerines, tangelos, and grapefruit, but by the end of the month most were taking Valencia oranges. Red grapefruit groves that had been spot picked were being revisited a second or third time. Caretakers were hedging and topping trees after harvest. Some growers were fertilizing and spraying. Limited mowing, mostly before harvest, was done on an as needed basis.

**CITRUS FRUIT PRODUCTION FORECAST, BY STATE AND U.S.**

Crop and State	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
	1,000 Cartons		
<b>ORANGES:</b> <sup>1</sup>			
California, All	99,000	98,000	105,000
Navel & Misc.	77,400	79,000	84,000
Valencia	21,600	19,000	21,000
Florida	209,400	193,600	142,000
Texas	3,554	2,904	2,820
U.S. Total	311,954	294,504	249,820
<b>GRAPEFRUIT:</b> <sup>2</sup>			
California, All	7,700	7,600	7,400
Florida	31,300	25,800	21,400
Texas	11,400	8,500	10,200
U.S. Total	50,400	41,900	39,000
<b>LEMONS:</b> <sup>3</sup>			
California	37,600	41,000	40,000
Arizona	3,600	4,000	3,200
U.S. Total	41,200	45,000	43,200
<b>TANGERINES &amp; MANDARINS:</b> <sup>4</sup>			
California <sup>5</sup>	29,400	36,400	42,000
Florida	5,800	4,540	2,800
Arizona <sup>5 6</sup>	300	340	(NA)
U.S. TOTAL	35,500	41,280	44,800

<sup>1</sup> ORANGES: California, 1 carton = 40 lbs; Florida, 1 carton = 45 lbs; Texas 1 carton = 42.5 lbs; Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs

<sup>2</sup> GRAPEFRUIT: California, 1 carton = 40 lbs; Florida, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs; Texas, 1 carton = 40 lbs

<sup>3</sup> LEMONS: 1 carton = 40 lbs

<sup>4</sup> TANGERINES: California, 1 carton = 40 lbs; Florida, 1 carton = 47.5 lbs; Arizona, 1 carton = 40 lbs

<sup>5</sup> Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.

<sup>6</sup> Estimates discontinued in 2015-2016.